(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether such studies are proposed to be conducted in other areas of Rajasthan also;

(c) what are the main causes for the ground water getting polluted in these villages; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by the Central Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c). The study has indicated that as a result of release of untreated effluents by some industries located in Bichhri, the ground water in the region has become contaminated and unfit for drinking and irrigation purposes. It may take several years for restoration of the quality of the groundwater. Similar studies on effects of industrial effluents on groundwater quality of Pali, Balotra and Jodhpur have been carried out.

(d) The steps taken include the following :

(i) The industries identified as causing the pollution have been closed down.

(ii) The Central Government has directed the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board to take effective measures for the safe removal and disposal of sludge from the premises of the factories.

(iii) The industries concerned have been directed by the Supreme Court to bear the expenditure incurred for removal of sludge.

(iv) The Rajasthan State Government is taking steps for supply of drinking water to the affected area.

Kaiga Power Plant

@1669. SHRI H. MANUMANTHAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present stage of Kaiga Power Plant; and

(b) by when this plant is likely to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON) : (a) Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant consisting of 2 units each of 235 MWe capacity is presently under construction.

(b) The present target schedules for achieving criticality are June 1995 and December 1995 for Unit-I and Unit-2 respectively.

Remote sensing application centre in Orissa

1670. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) since when the Remote Sensing Application Centre has been functioning in Orissa;

(b) the machinery and equipment purchased for the Remote Sensing Application Centre so far;

(c) the cost of these equipments,

(d) the amount borne by the Central Government for buying those equipment; and

(e) the various works undertaken by the Remote Sensing Application Centre so

@ Previously Unstarred Question 761 transferred from the 19th March, 1990.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON) : (a) The Orissa Remote Sensing Centre (ORSAC) was established in May 1984 as an autonomous body under State Department of Science, Technology and Environment.

(b) The following major machinery/ equipment have been procured by ORSAC towards visual interpretation of satellite imagery for various application projects :

- Analog Image Analyser
- Diazo Printer
- Large Format Optical Enlarger
- Light Table (3 Nos.)
- Mirror Stereoscope
- Optical Reflecting Projector
- Pocket Stereoscope

In addition, the Centre has procured two computer-based image processing systems for digital analysis of satellite data under the Ocean Remote Sensing Programme of Department of Ocean Development.

(c) The cost of the visual interpretation equipment is about Rs. 4.2 lakhs and the cost of computer-based systems is about Rs. 25.00 lakhs.

(d) The Department of Space, under the National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) programme, has so far provided Rs. 20.00 lakhs towards procurement support to ORSAC.

(e) The centre is carrying out large number of application projects in the areas of soil, geology, environment, urban landuse, floods, watersheds forest mapping, ocean resources mapping, and ground water potential zone mapping. The centre is presently participating in the National projects namely National Landuse Mapping and Drought Monitoring Projects, Soil Mapping Project, Crop acreage estimation and Production Forecasting, National Resources, Data Management System, Drinking Water Technology Mission, IRS-UP projects on crops and water quality monitoring etc.

Details of some of the projects completed/on going are:

- Crop Acreage Estimation of rice in the selected districts.
- Project on Integrated Survey for combating drought has been undertaken in Keonjhar and Kalahandi districts.
- Wasteland Mapping Project work has been completed in six districts of Orissa namely Ganjam, Cuttack, Puri, Dhenkanal, Sundergarh Bolangir.
- Soil Mapping Project for Cuttack and Puri districts for agricultural development and management programmes.
- Hydrogeomorphological Mapping for preparing ground water potential zone maps (work for the districts of Koraput, Ganjam, Phulbani, Mayurbhanj, Kalahandi, Bolangir and Sambalpur has been completed).
- Prioritisation of Watersheds for identification of erosion prone area in Chilka watershed, Komna block of Kalahandi district and four watersheds of Koraput district.
- Vegetation Cover Monitoring of mangrove forest in Bhitarkanika, using multidate LANDSAT and IRS data.
- Communication planning for realignment of Bansapani Daitary proposed rail-link.
- Puri-Konark Landuse Survey and landuse mapping of the Coastal belt between Puri and Konark.

— Regional Geological Mapping for mapping of Deogarh-Palahara-Similpal areas.

— Bio-resources and environmental Impact Assessment of Mining in Panchpatmali and Gandhamardan bauxite and Sukinda Chromite fields.

— Urban Landuse study for human settlement analysis of major urban centres in the State.

— Ocean resources and coastal environment to create data base for coast zone management plan.

— Forest and Plantation Survey for monitoring of Plantation areas.

— Micro Irrigation Survey for identification of sites for water harvesting structures in four mini watershed of Koraput and five watersheds in Kalahandi.

— Mineral Targetting for three inventory areas in Mayurbhanj, one area in Komma block of Kalahandi and three inventory areas in Dhenkanal.

— Hirakud Reservoir Sedimentation Study for water quality study.

— Investigation of Golagarh Watershed in Kashipur.

— Landuse Mapping of Balasore district to provide input for Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development (STED) programme.

— Coalfield Mapping for Jharia and South Karanpura coalfields.

— Environmental impact assessment of mining for Sukinda Chromite belt, the impact of Brick kiln is also being studied in Cuttack and Puri district.

— Micro level resource mapping of Koraput district

Production of childre'n Books

1671. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of institutions in the country which are producing children's books;

(b) whether Government are aware of the need to increase the production of these books; and

(c) if so, what are the details of steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Children's books at the national level are being produced by the National Book Trust, India, Children's Book Trust, publications Division and National Council of Educational Research and Training. At the State level, Balala Akademi, Hyderabad, Children Book Trust of the Punjab State University Textbook Board, Chandigarh; State Institute of Children's Literature, Trivandrum; are among the institutions which bring out books for children. They are also being published in various Indian languages and English by private publishers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The National Book Trust Implements the following schemes:

— Nehru Bal Pustakalaya

— Publications for School Library programme, particularly to assist in the Operation Blackboard programme which envisages 200 general reading books to each primary school library.

— financial assistance to voluntary organisations engaged in book promotional activities.